

of New Mexico by deeds dated December 3, 1951, and recorded in book 142 at pages 547 to 556, inclusive, records of Otero County, New Mexico, in exchange for lands of the United States pursuant to the Act of June 28, 1934 (48 Stat. 1269; 43 U. S. C. 315g), as amended, are hereby made parts of said Lincoln National Forest and hereafter shall be subject to all laws, rules, and regulations applicable to that national forest.

Approved August 9, 1955.

## Public Law 258

## CHAPTER 618

## AN ACT

August 9, 1955  
[S. 464]

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue patents for certain lands in Florida bordering upon Indian River.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That the Secretary of the Interior shall issue patents for the public lands erroneously omitted from the survey which are situated between the position of the record meander line represented on the plat approved March 10, 1845, and the actual shoreline of the Indian River in sections 11, 13, 14, 23, 24, 25, and 36, township 27 south, range 37 east, Tallahassee Meridian, Florida, to persons who hold such public lands in good faith and in peaceful adverse possession, if they or their predecessors in interest have been issued patents, prior to January 1, 1954, for the upland tracts adjoining such erroneously omitted lands. Payment to the United States shall be made for lands so patented at the same price per acre as that at which the land included in the original patent was purchased, but in no case less than \$1.25 per acre. No patent shall issue for any tract unless application for the tract is made by a qualified person within one year from the date of enactment of this Act. The Secretary shall issue no patents until the conclusion of such period. The Secretary may, by public sale at not less than the appraised value or under any appropriate public land law, dispose of any tract of public land subject to this Act which is not applied for by a qualified person within the one-year period.

Florida.  
Land patents.

SEC. 2. Upon the filing of a plat of resurvey under section 1 of this Act, the Secretary shall give such notice as he finds appropriate by newspaper publication or otherwise of the opening of the lands to purchase under this Act.

SEC. 3. Nothing in this Act shall affect valid existing rights.

Approved August 9, 1955.

## Public Law 259

## CHAPTER 619

## AN ACT

August 9, 1955  
[S. 463]

To authorize the issuance of commemorative medals to certain societies of which Benjamin Franklin was a member, founder, or sponsor in observance of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of his birth.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That, in commemoration of the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin occurring on January 17, 1956, and in connection with the observance and celebration of that event, the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized and directed to have struck seventy-one bronze medals of an appropriate design and inscription and to provide for

Benjamin Frank-  
lin societies.  
Commemorative  
medals.

the presentation of twenty-one such medals to the following-named scientific, educational and welfare societies of which Benjamin Franklin was a member: The American Philosophical Society (Philadelphia), Philadelphia Society of the Sons of St. George, Accademia di Scienze, Lettere et Arti in Padors (formerly Reale Accademia), (Italy), L'Academie des Sciences, L'Institute de France (formerly Academie Royale), the Royal Society (England), Konigliche Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften, Gottingen (Germany), the Royal Society of Arts (England), Bataafsche Genootschap der Proefondervindelijke Wijsbegeerte (Netherlands), The Academie de Medicine (France), The Medical Society of London, The American Academy of Arts and Sciences (Boston), the Royal Society of Edinburgh, Real Academia de la Historia (Spain), Academie Nationale des Sciences, Belle Lettres et Arts de Lyon (France), Real Accademia delle Scienze di Torino (Italy), the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society (England), the Societa Patriota diretta all'avanzamento dell'Agricoltura delle Arti e delle Manifatture, Milano (Italy), the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture, the Society of Antiquaries of London, the Societe d'Agriculture, Sciences, Belle Lettres et Arts, Orleans (formerly Societe Royale) France, and The Library Company of Philadelphia, and for the presentation of fifty medals in cooperation with the two hundred and fiftieth anniversary committee of the Franklin Institute to other enterprises, institutions and societies founded or helped in their early development by Benjamin Franklin.

\*Appropriation.

SEC. 2. Such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act are hereby authorized to be appropriated.

Approved August 9, 1955.

## Public Law 260

## CHAPTER 620

### JOINT RESOLUTION

August 9, 1955  
[S. J. Res. 92]

To authorize the Secretary of Commerce to sell the steamship Monterey.

Steamship Monterey.  
Sale.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That (a) the Secretary of Commerce is hereby authorized, during a period of six months after the enactment of this joint resolution, to sell the steamship Monterey and the uninstalled materials heretofore acquired by the United States with said vessel, which are held in storage by the Maritime Administration, Department of Commerce, to a citizen of the United States at competitive bidding, subject to the provisions of this joint resolution, and such terms and conditions not contrary hereto as the Secretary may prescribe. The vessel with such materials shall be sold on an "as is, where is" basis, at an aggregate minimum sales price of \$3,081,665.72, depreciated on the basis of a twenty-year life from August 6, 1952, to the date of the award of the contract of sale. Such sale shall be made upon a condition and agreement that the purchaser expend at least \$10,000,000 to recondition the vessel satisfactory to the Secretary of Commerce in a domestic shipyard for passenger service, with documentation under the laws of the United States. Such sale shall be on the basis of the payment of not less than 25 per centum of the sale price of the vessel and materials at the time of the execution of such sales contract, with balance payable in approximately equal annual installments over the life expectancy of the vessel after reconditioning by the purchaser which life expectancy shall be determined jointly by the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Commerce, with interest on the portion of the sales price remaining unpaid at the rate